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fell in with a school of smelts which was on its way up river to breed.

The first capelin record for Maine was published in a previous number of COPEIA. In 1917 considerable numbers had been taken in Passamaquoddy Bay and near Dennysville, in the herring weirs with the herring. They were noticed particularly in the catches in the latter part of November.

W.M. C. KENDALL,
Washington, D. C.

REDISCOVERY OF *AMPHIARDIS INORNATUS* (GARMAN), WITH NOTES
ON OTHER SPECIMENS
FROM OKLAHOMA.

A small collection recently received by the Department of Herpetology of the American Museum of Natural History from Theodore Beard, a student in the Sapulpa, Oklahoma, High School, contains the following species:

1. *Bufo woodhousii* Girard, Rocky Mountain Toad. Adult and young.
2. *Crotaphytus collaris collaris* (Say), Collared Lizard; "Mountain Boomer."
3. *Sceloporus consobrinus consobrinus* Baird and Girard, Oklahoma Swift.
4. *Heterodon contortrix* (Linn.), Spreading Adder.
5. *Elaphe obsoleta obsoleta* (Say), Black Chicken Snake.
6. *Lampropeltis calligaster* (Say), Kansas King Snake.

A juvenile specimen, remarkable in having 27 rows of dorsal scales instead of the normal 25. Its

stomach contained a specimen of *Sceloporus consobrinus consobrinus*. Branson (1904, Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull., Vol. II, p. 397) reports that mice form the chief food of this species in captivity, his specimens having refused lizards.

7. *Lampropeltis triangulum amaura* (Cope). Identification provisional.

8. *Amphiardis inornatus* (Garman).

The rediscovery of this species, which has been known only from the two type specimens from Dallas, Texas, since its description in 1883, is of exceptional interest. The specimen is a male, measuring 230 mm., tail 50 mm., or .22 of the total. In the larger type 260 mm. in length, the tail measured only .17 of the total, obviously a sex difference, as the present example also has fewer ventral plates, 119 compared with 125-129 of the types, and more subcaudals, 46 instead of 36. As in the original specimens, the internasals are unsymmetrical, the one on the right being smaller in this case. The species is readily recognized by the long, narrow loreal, entering the eye together with the prefrontal; by having only five supralabials; in conjunction with seventeen rows of keeled dorsal scales, the outer broad and very faintly keeled.

The specimen was plowed up in a piece of land which was being broken for the first time, a creek bottom field subject to overflow and covered with tough matted grass and sedge. Its burrowing habitat accounts probably for its rarity in collections.

9. *Agkistrodon mokasen* Beauvois, Copperhead.

10. *Chelydra serpentina* (Linn.), Snapping Turtle.

Two juvenile specimens recently hatched, with distinct white spots on the submarginals and the borders of the plastron.

11. *Terrapene ornata* (Agassiz), Great Plains
Box Turtle.

KARL P. SCHMIDT,
New York, N. Y.

CHARACTER AND FEEDING HABITS OF
FARANCIA ABACURA, THE SO-
CALLED "STINGING SNAKE."

The writer came to Clarksdale, Miss. 30 years ago, which then became his permanent official residence. Shortly after, stories were heard about the prevalence of numerous "stinging snakes" in the neighborhood, and a planter offered to bring him the next one found. In a few days on reaching his office he found a snake of unusual appearance awaiting him. It had just been killed, but had enough vitality for tail movements. It was carefully carried on a fire poker to the porch for good light. The poker was pressed on the tail, which set up a lively oscillation, and the observer distinctly saw a sting, protruded and withdrawn "in a flash," but saw no repetition of the exposure. A dissection showed the tail vertebræ descending in a diminuendo to the fine pointed extremity of the tail, and no place for a "sting." This shows that we are very likely to see what we expect to see, when snakes are involved; and the average person is prone to accept first impressions, and any extravagant statement about snakes without any inclination to verify, or disprove them.

Some weeks later the writer captured a live specimen of *Farancia* five feet long, when driving in a buggy in a road on the bank of a morass, from which the snake had evidently just emerged, as it had a bright shiny appearance, jet black with scarlet points extending up onto the sides at intervals of a few inches; and made a very handsome display.

One day the *Farancia* and a *Crotalus* were liberated together in a room. *Farancia* was first placed in the room, and was extended at full length near